

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 8, 10 and 18-21.

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 12-15, 17 and 22 as follows:

Sub B

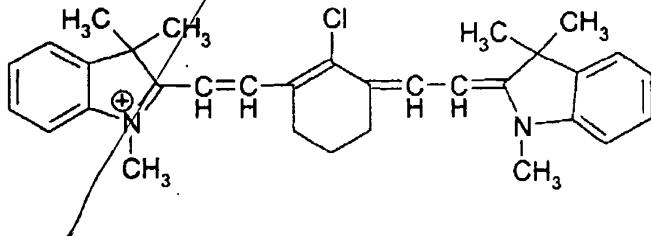
1. (Amended) A lithographic printing form precursor having an imagable coating on a aluminum support, wherein the imagable coating comprises a polymeric substance comprising colorant groups, and reversible insolubilizer groups selected from the group consisting of -O-SO₂-tolyl, -O-dansyl, -O-SO₂-thienyl, -O-SO₂-naphthyl, and -O-CO-Ph and diazide functional groups, wherein the aluminum support on which the coating is provided is anodized but not subsequently modified by means of a post-anodic treatment compound, and wherein the coating does not comprise a free colorant dye.

A 3

3. (Amended) A precursor as claimed in claim 2, wherein the polymeric substance is a phenolic resin selected from the group consisting of a novolac resin, a resole resin, a novolac/resole resin mixture and polyhydroxystyrene, and a copolymer of hydroxystyrene.

Sub B 3

4. (Amended) A precursor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymeric substance comprises colorant groups selected from the group consisting of triarylmethene dyes, quaternized heterocyclic compounds, quinolinium compounds, benzothiazolium compounds, pyridinium compounds, polymethine dyes, cyanine dyes, Methylene blue, and a dye having the cation



A 4

7. (Amended) A precursor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the imagable coating comprises a free infra-red absorbing compound.

A 5

9. (Amended) A precursor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reversible insolubilizer groups are also colorant groups.

A 6

12. (Amended) A precursor as claimed in claim 11, wherein the colorant groups are polymethine dyes or cyanine dyes.

the polymer comprising hydroxyl groups

problem note

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13. (Amended) A precursor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the imagable coating comprises a free compound which acts as a reversible insolubilizer compound.

14. (Amended) A precursor as claimed in claim 13, wherein the free reversible insolubilizer compound is selected from the group consisting of naphthoflavone, 2,3-diphenyl-1-indeneone, flavone, flavarnone, xanthone, benzophenone, N-(4-bromobutyl) phthalimide and phenanthrenequinone.

15. (Amended) A precursor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the imagable coating comprises a pigment.

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17. (Amended) A method of preparing a lithographic printing form precursor having an imagable coating on an aluminum support, the method comprising the steps of:

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a) anodizing an aluminum support; and
b) without having effected a chemical treatment step after the anodizing step, applying a composition comprising a polymeric substance to the anodized surface of the aluminum ~~sheet~~ and drying the composition to form the imagable coating thereon, wherein the imagable ^{support} coating comprises a polymeric substance comprising colorant groups, and reversible insolubilizer groups selected from the group consisting of -O-SO₂-tolyl, -O-dansyl, -O-SO₂-thienyl, -O-SO₂-naphthyl and -O-CO-Ph and diazide functional groups, and wherein the coating does not comprise a free colorant dye.

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22. (Amended) A printing form prepared by a method comprising the steps of
a) anodizing an aluminum support;
b) without having effected a chemical treatment step after the anodizing step, applying a composition comprising a polymeric substance to the anodized surface of the aluminum ~~sheet~~ and drying the composition to form an imagable coating thereon, wherein the imagable ^{support} coating comprises a polymeric substance comprising colorant groups, and reversible insolubilizer groups selected from the group consisting of -O-SO₂-tolyl, -O-dansyl, -O-SO₂-thienyl, -O-SO₂-naphthyl and -O-CO-Ph and diazide functional groups, and wherein the coating does not comprise a free colorant dye;

c) exposing the coating imagewise, and;
d) removing the exposed regions of the coating using a developer liquid.